

Environmentalists want to do their own flood control study

Nevada County group wants to look at options besides dams

Harold Kruger
Appeal-Democrat

Dismayed with the Yuba County Water Agency's flood control plan, the South Yuba River Citizens League wants to come up with its own.

SYRCL officials today will ask Nevada County supervisors to endorse its request for a \$180,000 grant from Calfed for the \$250,000 project.

The Nevada County group proposes a 15-month Yuba River Ecological and Flood Control Assessment project for non-dam alternatives.

"This is not meant to displace any other efforts," said Shawn Garvey, SYRCL's executive director. "It's not meant to displace the Yuba County Water Agency's proposal, and it's not meant to displace the Army Corps' proposal. It's meant to investigate additional tools that are not being looked at."

Garvey said his group, once it settles on its flood control strategy, wants to work with Yuba, Nevada and Sierra counties to obtain state and federal funds "to implement a watershed plan that protects residents and water quality simultaneously. We think it can be done."

In a memo to Nevada County supervisors, Garvey described it as a "stakeholder-based ecological and flood control assessment study that will bring upper and lower Yuba watershed residents and interests together to craft a regional solution to the problem of flood control in the Yuba watershed."

Donn Wilson, the Water Agency's engineer-administrator, said the agency has tried to work with SYRCL — with no success.

"The frustrating part is they continue to complain we have not adequately looked at alternatives that they like," Wilson said. "We continue by telephone and multiple letters to ask them to come sit down with us and our consultants and go over all the bases for not moving forward with some of the alternatives they like. They continue to not do that."

But, according to Garvey, "They want their consultants to tell us why they can't do anything else. We don't have time for that."

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RIVER: New flood study

From A1

The Water Agency is in the latter stages of its study of options that will give Yuba County a 500-year level of flood protection.

They include enlarging Bullards Bar, Lake Oroville and Thermalito Afterbay to hold more water or increasing their flood reservations.

New reservoirs also are under active consideration. Proposed sites include Freemans Crossing, Edwards Crossing, Parks Bar, Dry Creek and Waldo. The San Francisco Examiner on Sunday reported on the Waldo proposal because it could affect the Spenceville Recreation and Wildlife Refuge.

The agency's consultants discarded non-structural alternatives, such as flood-proofing buildings, relocating people and property from the floodplain and enlarging river channels.

"We've looked at these things, and we think we looked at them hard and in a good-faith manner," Wilson said. "They do have the potential to work, but they carry very big dollars, and we haven't found a place to get those dollars, so we continue to look for options that will provide the protection we need and have the ability to pay for themselves or bring enough revenue to the table so they can be paid for."

Levee raising and levee setbacks would allow more water to flow down the rivers, but the Water Agency would be responsible for addressing downstream impacts to Sacramento, a cost that could reach \$500 million, the

agency's consultants said.

"Obviously, most of this community in Yuba, Sierra and Nevada counties don't believe that many common tools for increasing flood protection have been fully investigated," Garvey said.

He cited forest practices, meadow restoration, levee setbacks and paying farmers for flood easements.

"There are a lot of ways to enhance flood protection that can be done quickly and would have the full support of almost everyone in Nevada, Yuba and Sierra counties," Garvey said. In his memo to Nevada County supervisors, Garvey said the Water Agency's dam alternatives "conflict with CalFed's vision for more natural ecological processes ... (and) are also inconsistent with the Nevada County Board of Supervisors' stated desire to keep new dams off the South Yuba River."

According to Garvey, "Residents in the upper watershed find themselves the target of large dam proposals, which, in turn, threaten their homes and property with condemnation and removal."

Dialogue between foothill and valley interests "continues to grow more distant, emotionally charged and unproductive," Garvey wrote.

SYRCL wants to "counter this atmosphere of conflict and discord in the watershed" with its study process, he said.

"If they can come up with a way to provide our flood control and pay for it, we will be forever grateful to them," Wilson said.

AT A GLANCE

Yuba County Water Agency consultants are studying the following flood control options, individually and in different combinations. They will make a recommendation to directors in a few weeks.

- ▶ Increase flood storage space by 45,000 acre-feet without an outlet enlargement at Thermalito Afterbay.
- ▶ Increase flood storage space at Bullards Bar by 100,000 acre-feet with additional outlet capacity for 20,000 cubic feet per second.
- ▶ Enlarge Bullards Bar by 50,000 acre-feet.
- ▶ Enlarge Lake Oroville by 75,000 acre-feet.
- ▶ Enlarge Thermalito Afterbay by 45,000 acre-feet.
- ▶ Increase Lake Oroville flood storage reservation by 450,000 acre-feet with 75,000 cfs additional outlet capacity.
- ▶ Increase Bullards Bar flood storage by 100,000 acre-feet with 20,000 cfs additional outlet capacity.
- ▶ Enlarge Bullards Bar by 50,000 acre-feet.
- ▶ Increase Lake Oroville flood storage reservation by 1 million acre-feet without an outlet enlargement.
- ▶ New reservoirs at Parks Bar, Edwards Crossing, Waldo, Dry Creek, Freemans Crossing and Narrows.

COMPLEX: Retail project planned

From A1

would be limited to "indoor retail."

A proposed tentative map would divide the property into 10 parcels — ranging in size from a half-acre to nearly a full acre.

O'Neill said Marysville Press consists of a group of local investors "trying to revitalize that

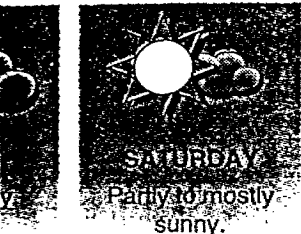
most popular of the two because it was the main one," Golding said.

Golding said the name was changed from Auto See to Yuba City Drive-in to avoid confusion among movie bookers, who sometimes forgot in which Northern California city the Auto See was located

dense shrubs and trees, and a 6-foot high masonry wall adjacent to the mobile home residents.

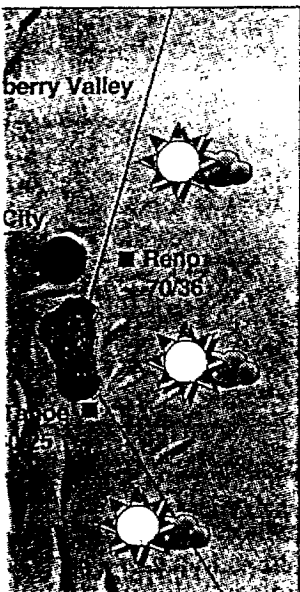
In addition, city officials hope the proposed project will facilitate longstanding Yuba City plans for a new, more direct street connection between the 10th Street bridge and Market Street.

Plans are to build a



High 77, Low 48

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with the help of sunshine, are much of California. Unsettled in Rockies and produces show-exas to Kansas. Elsewhere, at Lakes to the Gulf Coast

A WEATHER

p.	City	Hi	Lo	Prp.
8	San Francisco	59	48	
0	San Gabriel	61	47	0.40
	San Jose	69	39	0.25
Tr	San L. Obispo	61	37	
5	San Rafael	71	42	
8	San Ana	60	42	0.94
	Barbara	63	43	
	Clara	69	39	0.25
0	Santa Cruz	61	45	Tr
7	Santa Maria	60	36	0.01
	Santa Monica	61	43	0.95
	Santa Rosa	67	41	
	Stockton	69	41	
	Tahoe Valley	52	20	
4	Torrance	57	42	1.32
	Ukiah	78	39	
2	Vallejo	68	41	